

**NEBRASKA STATE PATROL
EXECUTIVE PROTECTION/CAPITOL DETAIL DIVISION**



WHAT IS A THREAT?

A *threat* is an expression, by any means of communication (written, verbal, body language, etc.), of the intention to inflict or cause some type of harm against a person, group, building or other entity. Persons may threaten death, physical harm, political or legal harm or an unspecified/unarticulated harmful action. Threats are as diverse as the persons who make them and must be taken seriously.

Three Types of Threats

Threats usually fall into three types: **direct; veiled/vague; and inappropriate contact.**

DIRECT

A direct threat involves the intention to cause a specific harmful action to a specific target.

Examples:

"I'm gonna shoot you."

"You are dead."

"I am going to blow up your building."

Direct threats are usually of the most concern as they are detailed and directed toward a specific target. Regard anyone making these threats as DANGEROUS.

VEILED/VAGUE

A communication that has a concerning tone or subject matter, that makes reference to an act of harm but does not implicitly state an intention to act nor does it define a specific target.

Examples:

"I can see why people want to blow up government buildings."

"I can see why politicians get shot."

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

These contacts or communications involve things that may not necessarily be threats, but cause individuals to have concern for their personal safety.

Examples:

-An unknown person, who looks out of place, loitering outside an office.

-A stranger asking personal/inappropriate questions about an official.

These actions can be of great concern and can be particularly unnerving.

WHAT DO TO IF THREATENED

Regardless of how the threat is communicated, there are some important things to do when confronted with such a situation.

1) BE CALM. It is important to stay in control and attempt to remember as much as possible about the situation. Treat threatener with respect. Be polite.

2) MAKE NOTE. If proper forms are not available, grab a note pad and begin writing things like who the threatener is and what they are saying. Gain as much information as possible. This information is VERY IMPORTANT.

3) CONTACT. Contact appropriate law enforcement AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4) PRESERVE. Law enforcement will need any materials you have in regards to the threat as these are evidence. For correspondence, make a copy for your records, but the original must be provided to law enforcement. This includes the envelop or other packaging. For email, print a copy for the investigator and retain a copy for your records. If you think it is relevant to your situation, give it to the investigator.

**If threatened, contact Nebraska State Patrol
471-2645 If out side of Lincoln your local State
Patrol office or local law enforcement office.**